



VETERANS UPDATE

CONGRESSMAN

Charles Taylor

SERVING WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S 11TH DISTRICT

A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

I commend all of the brave individuals who have served our great country with the highest level of courage and honor. Because our veterans have been fundamental in preserving the independence of our country, it is the duty of Congress to properly thank them for their service by providing them with the necessary resources to protect their rights.

As Chairman for the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, I was proud to include \$1.5 billion in emergency supplemental funds to assist veterans health care in the Fiscal Year 2006 Interior Appropriations bill. This action was taken in response to the budget shortfall of more than \$1 billion at the Department of Veterans Affairs. I am committed to continually providing the necessary resources to our veterans and feel that it is of the utmost importance that the American taxpayers demand accountability from the VA so that a budget shortfall such as this does not occur again.

As your Representative, I will continue to work on the issues vital to veterans so that their efforts will never be forgotten. Additionally, if I can be of any assistance to you with inquiries to the Department of Veterans Affairs, please visit the Constituent Services section of my website at <http://charlestaylor.house.gov> or contact one of my local offices.

— Congressman Charles Taylor

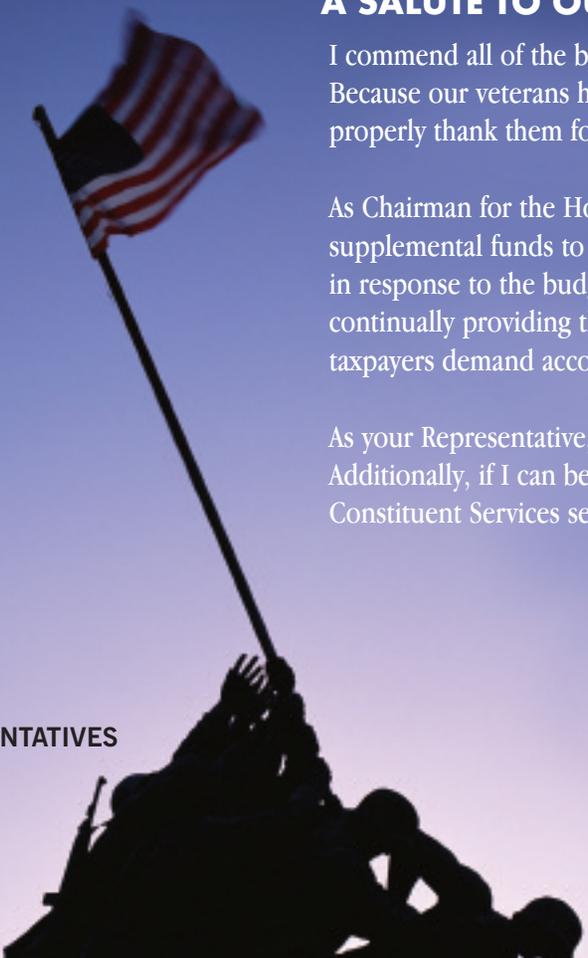
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PRSRT STD M.C.



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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“Serving Those Who Served Us”

Serving Those Who Served Us

Delivering the Benefits They Deserve

In May, Rep. Taylor helped pass H.R. 2528, the *Fiscal Year 2006 Military Quality of Life Appropriations* bill. This bill contains some of the highest levels of veterans funding in history.

- ✓ **Veterans medical care is funded at its highest level ever with a \$1.6 billion increase over FY05, a 40 percent increase in funding since 2001**
- ✓ **\$20 billion is provided for the Defense Health Program, an increase of \$1.8 billion over the enacted level of FY05**
- ✓ **Veterans mental health services funding is \$2.2 billion which includes a comprehensive study on post traumatic stress disorder**
- ✓ **Other veterans benefits have also been increased by \$1.5 billion over FY05. This increase includes expanded benefits for our Guard and Reserve soldiers, such as increased TRICARE coverage.**

Rep. Taylor recently helped pass the *Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2005*, which passed the House in July. This legislation provides a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to disability compensation rates for veterans with service-connected disabilities, equal to the adjustment provided under Social Security.

Rep. Taylor is also a cosponsor of the *Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act*. This bill would repeal the offset from surviving spouse annuities under the military Survivor Benefit Plan for amounts paid as dependency and indemnity compensation.

A Record of Standing Up for WNC Seniors

Since Rep. Taylor first came to office, he has been able to secure more than \$75 million for the Asheville VA Medical Center, turning it into one of the finest, most modern VA Medical Facilities in the country. These funds have been able to:

- ✓ **Construct new 120 bed Nursing Home Care Unit (NHCU)**
- ✓ **Renovate main building and administration building to correct space deficiencies**
- ✓ **Construct clinical addition**
- ✓ **Establish MRI capability with clinical addition**
- ✓ **Establish inpatient hospice**
- ✓ **Renovate 7 patient wards**
- ✓ **Expand Home Based Primary Care program**
- ✓ **Establish PTSD Clinical Team and PTSD program**
- ✓ **Establish day treatment center**

CHARLES TAYLOR

ELEVENTH DISTRICT



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